

# News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

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## **THEME PARK RIDE INJURIES INCREASE 95 PERCENT IN FOUR YEARS!** *Markey blasts industry opposition to safety bill*

**Washington, DC:** Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) today released the most recent government statistics [<http://www.cpsc.gov/library/data.html>] regarding serious injuries suffered on amusement park rides, deploring the continuing sharp upward trend on rides that are exempt from federal oversight. The data, gathered by the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System from hospital emergency rooms, confirms that the most serious safety problems are growing in the one area of safety regulation where federal investigators are forbidden to act – permanent rides in theme parks. Rep. Markey has introduced legislation to close this so-called “Roller Coaster Loophole.”

The data shows an overall increase in amusement ride injuries of 12 percent last year, and 56 percent over 4 years. On permanent “fixed-site” rides, the 4-year increase has been even sharper – up 95 percent. During the same period, attendance at amusement parks increased by less than 7 percent.

“It is appalling that the amusement park industry continues to defend its extraordinary exemption from safety regulation even as the danger of broken bones, cuts, internal injuries and fatalities continues to climb,” said Markey. “One-third of the roller coasters in this country are never inspected by any public official, state or local, and none – not one – can be examined after an accident by a federal investigator. The information that could prevent accidents in other parks on other rides is never systematically shared among all 50 states. As long as the industry fights this fundamental safety measure, our children are at unnecessary but very real risk of serious injury every time they step onto an amusement park ride.”

Rep. Markey and over 50 members of the House of Representatives are pressing for action on bipartisan legislation (H.R. 3032) to restore federal safety oversight of permanent (“fixed-site”) amusement park. The Consumer Product Safety Commission is currently allowed to investigate accidents and enforce safety measures on carnival rides, but is forbidden from taking similar action when the accident occurs on rides in permanent theme parks. The Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group support the legislation.

For additional background, go to “<http://www.house.gov/markey/issues.htm>”.

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